

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended): A method of screening for a substance which improves a vascular cell disorder which occurs due to the function of Rac protein, endothelial functions, comprising:

~~labelling an Rac protein in a HUVEC,~~

adding a test substance to a HUVEC which contains a labelled Rac protein, ~~said HUVEC,~~

and

measuring the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC, and

determining that the substance is a substance which improves the vascular cell disorder which occurs due to the function of Rac protein if transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC is visually identified.

14. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 13, wherein the labelled Rac protein is a fusion protein which includes a fluorescent protein.

15. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus is measured by observation with fluorescence.

16. (Previously Presented) The screening method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein said measuring of the transfer of the labelled Rac protein is performed 15 hours after said test substance is added to said HUVEC.

17. (Currently Amended): A method of screening for a substance which promotes nuclear transfer of Rac protein, comprising:

~~labelling an Rac protein in a HUVEC,~~

adding a test substance to a HUVEC which contains a labelled Rac protein, said HUVEC,

and

measuring the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC, and

determining that the substance is a substance which promotes nuclear transfer of Rac protein if transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC is visually identified.

18. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 16, wherein the labelled Rac protein is a fusion protein which includes a fluorescent protein.

19. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus is measured by observation with fluorescence.

20. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein said measuring of the transfer of the labelled Rac protein is performed 15 hours after said test substance is added to said HUVEC.

21. (New): A method of screening for a substance which inhibits the function of Rac protein, comprising:

adding a test substance to a HUVEC which contains a labelled Rac protein,
measuring the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC, and
determining that the substance is a substance which inhibits the function of Rac protein if transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC is visually identified.

22. (New): The screening method according to claim 21, wherein the labelled Rac protein is a fusion protein which includes a fluorescent protein.

23. (New): The screening method according to claim 21 or 22, wherein the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus is measured by observation with fluorescence.

24. (New): The screening method according to claim 21 or 22, wherein said measuring of the transfer of the labelled Rac protein is performed 15 hours after said test substance is added to said HUVEC.